



Oil & Gas Coalition Multi-State Habitat Conservation Plan

SCOPING FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



HCP Purpose and Need

- Purpose of the HCP: fulfill application requirements for an Incidental Take Permit, including providing measures to fully offset the impacts of take of the Covered Activities.
- Because Coalition upstream and midstream activities may result in take of listed bat species, the need for the HCP includes:
 - Comprehensively address and streamline permitting
 - Allow year-round development of O&G projects
 - Address mitigation needs for multiple species with similar natural history and ecological needs
 - Provide long-term assurances to Coalition members to respond to fluctuating economic conditions
 - Enables coordination with State species programs

The HCP Covered Species are five bat species with similarities in life history and ecology:

- Indiana bat (endangered)
- Northern long-eared bat (threatened)
- Little brown bat (not listed but under review)
- Tri-colored bat (not listed but under review)
- Eastern small-footed bat (not listed)



HCP Elements

- Background
 - Covered Activities
 - Covered Species
 - Covered Lands
- Impacts and take assessment
- Conservation program
 - Biological goals and objectives
 - Impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures
 - Monitoring and adaptive management strategy
 - Reporting
- Plan Implementation
 - Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances
 - Permit amendments
- Alternatives
- Funding
- References

Potential Impacts and Take Assessment

- Covered Activities evaluated for potential effects to the Covered Species
- Designed to address uncertainties over 50-year permit term
- Predictive, not prescriptive
- Primary impact to the Covered Species is from loss of forested habitat

Conservation Program

- Proposed Biological Goals and Objectives:
 - **Goal 1:** Contribute to the long-term persistence of the Covered Species within the HCP Plan Area by providing measures to support maternity and hibernating colonies of the Covered Species.
 - **Goal 2:** Minimize impacts to Covered Species by contributing to the long-term preservation of suitable summer and winter habitat for the Covered Species within the HCP Plan Area.

Specific objectives toward meeting each goal are tied to proposed conservation measures.

Avoidance & Minimization Measures

- Carve-out areas where Covered Activities would not occur
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Construction and environmental permit requirements
- Construction management and sequencing to reduce impacts - e.g., co-locate facilities, reuse disturbed areas, project planning
- Re-vegetation / reclamation

Mitigation Measures

- Protect habitat
 - Off-site land protection/preservation/restoration
 - On-site (leased lands) measures – term credits
 - Conservation easements/leasing forest lands
 - Habitat exchange/banking
 - Hibernacula protection – acquisition, gating
- White Nose Syndrome research and remediation
- Stacking mitigation
 - Providing benefits to multiple species
 - Landscape approach
- Mitigation entity(ies)/coordinator(s)

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- Compliance monitoring
 - Ensure compliance with the permit take limit
 - Reporting over life of permit term
- Effectiveness monitoring
 - Ensure conservation program is achieving biological goals and objectives
- Adaptive Management
 - Respond to uncertainty
 - Remain in permit compliance